

IN SUPPORT OF DR. LAURA

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have a button which I sometimes wear. It says, "Politically Incorrect and Proud of it." I probably ought to be wearing that button tonight, because what I am going to say is going to be deemed politically incorrect by some.

You see, I rise in strong support of Dr. Laura. Mr. Speaker, under the guise of freedom of speech, my children and my grandchildren are put into a sea of filth and violence on television and the Net. Yet, when Dr. Laura recapitulates spiritual and moral values espoused by countless civilizations through millenia of time, pagans and Christians and Jews and Muslims, she is accused of hate speech.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to defend Dr. Laura and her right to freely express her religious convictions, her deeply held religious convictions, without fear of being called a bigot. If her rights are denied, all our rights are at risk.

THE CENSUS AND URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN RESOLUTION SALUTING MINORITY VETERANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise for two reasons this evening. First of all, I ask Americans not to forget the Census. On April 16, we will have Census Sunday in my district, where I hope all of our religious communities and all those who will be gathered under one roof will realize the importance of one vote, one person, and realize they should be part of the count and not part of the undercount.

So many of our men and women have served the United States military so that we might be free. The Census is one exercise that the United States partakes in to ensure that all Members of this Nation are counted. So I hope that those who have not sent in their forms will realize that this is a part of the obligation of being here in the United States, to be counted.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting House Resolution 98 to salute and give appreciation to all of the minority veterans that served in World War II, African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, who, because of discriminatory laws in the United States, were not fully acknowledged.

We appreciate all who served in World War II and who gave their lives in sacrifice, but we hope we will be able to honor them on a day of honor, May 25, 2000.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF OR HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH MAY 2, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following appointment by the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 13, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through May 2, 2000.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from M. Pope Barrow, Jr., Legislative Counsel of the Office of General Counsel of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for production of documents issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

M. POPE BARROW, Jr.,  
*Legislative Counsel.*

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to talk about one of the most serious issues affecting senior citizens and families across the country. That is the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and the lack of affordable health coverage for seniors.

Too many of our Nation's senior citizens are forced to make an impossible choice each month about whether they

buy the food they need, pay to heat their homes, or pay for the prescription medication that will keep them alive and keep them healthy.

Mr. Speaker, in the richest country in the history of the world, it is simply wrong to force our senior citizens to make that choice. I am sure Members have noticed this giant pill bottle. The size of this pill bottle reflects the escalating costs of prescription medications in our country.

Mr. Speaker, next week I will travel throughout my district and invite senior citizens to bring to me their prescription medications, their prescriptions, and the bills they pay for them. Mr. Speaker, we are going to fill this prescription bottle with those medication receipts, and we are going to bring it back to this body and demand action.

Mr. Speaker, too many senior citizens in this country are making a choice, a terrible choice that they should not have to make. This body has now been in session more than 15 months. We have talked about naming post offices, we have traveled back and forth across the country to vote on silly suspension bills, in some cases.

What have we not voted on? We have not voted on any substantive legislation, not one piece of substantive legislation to lower the cost of prescription medications or to provide meaningful health insurance to our senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, we must not apply a placebo false fix to this problem. We must provide a real prescription on the House of Representatives to solve a real problem that is affecting our senior citizens' health and well-being every day.

Mr. Speaker, when I am in my district next week, I want hundreds of senior citizens to come out. I want to share with Members a story. We asked many of our seniors to share with us what they are paying for prescription medication. I was particularly moved by the story of Ms. Gwen Blackman of Longview.

This is what she wrote to me recently. She is receiving \$650 per month for social security disability payments, but Mr. Speaker, she must pay \$360 of that per month for prescription medications. How does she do that? Mr. Speaker, she does not do that. What she is forced to do is, on some months, go without her medication.

□ 2045

The richest country in the history of the world, we have senior citizens not able to pay for the medication they need because we have done nothing to control the escalating costs of prescription medications, and we have done nothing substantive to provide meaningful, meaningful and real affordable health insurance that includes prescription medications for our seniors.

This House has before it several bills. I am not taking a position tonight on

exactly which bill we must pass. But, Mr. Speaker, we must have this debate, and we must not pass a placebo designed to make us feel like we have done something without doing something.

I hope senior citizens from around this country will look at this giant prescription bottle and say I am going to follow the example of that Member of Congress, I am going to send my Member my prescription medication bottles. I am going to send them the receipts and say, "Sir or Madam, what would you do if you were in my shoes, and what will you do as an elected Representative to solve this problem."

#### IN DEFENSE OF DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Americans must speak up for freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and traditional morality by defending Dr. Laura's TV show against politically correct antibigotry bigots. That is why I would like to read into the RECORD excerpts from an excellent column from the April 8 issue of World magazine by noted professor of journalism, Marvin Olasky. The article is entitled, "Support Dr. Laura: Don't back GLAAD, get mad at the anti-bigotry bigots."

Now I quote, "Long-time World readers know that I advocate political alliances between religious conservatives and libertarians, and social-issue alliances between biblical Christians and theologically conservative Jews and Muslims. We need such alliances, I believe, because God has not placed us in the ancient land of Canaan, the theme park that Israelites were told to make their own. Instead, Christians are called to live amid sin in a modern Babylon. . .

"Dr. Laura Schlessinger has reportedly surpassed Howard Stern and even Rush Limbaugh as the most-listened-to radio person. She regularly reaches over 20 million radio listeners on 450 stations in the United States and Canada with a message that emphasizes biblical morality. More Americans may soon hear that message: Paramount recently signed up 85 percent of U.S. television markets to air her hour-long talk format television show. But homosexual activists are now campaigning to stop her influence from expanding further. . .

"Dr. Laura (now 53 years old) has become an Orthodox Jew—and that means she has increasingly presented an Old Testament-based critique of homosexuality. To those who disagree she says, rightly, 'I am reiterating what God said. To them, that makes me

'hateful.' I'm sorry—talk to God about it.' Since groups like GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, don't want to talk to God about it, they have instead put pressure on Paramount to stop the Dr. Laura television show before it starts. GLAAD's posture is ironic in one respect; as Dr. Laura told our reporter Lynn Vincent earlier this year, 'I think it's quite fascinating that a group that's talking about civil rights wants to curtail my right to make a living, speak my point of view, and to have my religious convictions.'

"[www.stopdrlaura.com](http://www.stopdrlaura.com), one of the new attack websites, bills itself as 'a coalition against hate.' The Stop Dr. Laura movement lists e-mail addresses and phone and fax numbers for the Paramount offices, giving homosexuals and their apologists an easy way to maximize harassment of Paramount executives. One of the dot-com brains behind the attack, John Aravosis, said, 'The show's going to be canceled. This is going to be living hell for Paramount for the next year at least. E-mails will keep flying and flying and flying. Everyone on-line who's progressive is going to know that Paramount is a bigot.' For progressives, of course, 'bigotry' only goes one way.

"Former Member of Congress Pat Schroeder attacked Dr. Laura by saying, 'The pledge of allegiance says, 'with liberty and justice for all.' What part of 'all' is unclear?' That question should be turned back to Mrs. Schroeder. What about liberty for Dr. Laura.

"If the attack just came on the Web, it would not be so serious but leading liberal publications have become lapdogs of the homosexual lobby. GLAAD in 1998 met with editors of Time magazine to tutor them on the politically correct way to cover homosexuals in their publication. Time editors followed up obligingly with a flurry of pro-gay coverage, prompting GLAAD to trumpet the magazine's 'truly remarkable turnaround.' On March 20 Time had the predictable story, 'Dr. Laura, Heal Thyself.' So, for that matter, did Newsweek, with its standard hit-piece use of adjectives . . . and out-of-context references . . .

"Dr. Laura issued an ironic statement: 'We are all made in God's image, and therefore, we should treat one another with love and kindness.' But for activists, sincere overtures of peace will not suffice, and only Dr. Laura's unconditional surrender is acceptable . . .

"If a person of Dr. Laura's prominence and proven appeal can be kept off television, tyrants have seized control of the airways and no one who doesn't bow to political correctness is safe . . .

"The best way to ask Paramount executives not to be swayed by the GLAAD offensive is to send a letter to Mr. Frank Kelly, Paramount Tele-

vision, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, California 90038, or an e-mail to [television@pde.paramount.com](mailto:television@pde.paramount.com)."

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise in support of Dr. Laura.

#### THE REUNIFICATION OF THE PARTHENON MARBLES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues an issue of great importance to our Nation and to the international cultural community. I was tremendously pleased to learn that the matter of the Elgin Marbles is now being considered by the British Parliament and would like to offer my support for all efforts by the committee to conduct a thorough, authoritative examination of all the issues of return of the Parthenon Sculptures to the Acropolis.

The House of Commons, committee on Culture, Media and Sport will be examining the issue of the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles as a part of its present Inquiry On Cultural Property: Return and Illicit Trade. Last week, the committee traveled to Athens to conduct on-site meetings on the issue with the Hellenic Republic.

The Parthenon was built nearly 2,500 years ago by the original Periclean democracy. The Parthenon Marbles are the segments of the Parthenon temple frieze and structures removed by Lord Elgin from the Parthenon Temple in Athens to London in 1801 to 1816 under the circumstances of debatable legality.

The subject of the Parthenon Marbles is not a Greek-British issue but one of international and U.S. interests. Within the international community, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, and the European Parliament have issued declarations urging that the Marbles be returned to Greece. From the major government buildings of all Western democracies to the emblem of UNESCO, the Parthenon is the recognized international symbol of culture and democracy.

Within Great Britain, two polls over the last 2 years demonstrated that the British public favors the reunification of the Marbles. Last year, an Early Day Motion, signed by 112 members of the British Parliament, was presented urging the return of the Marbles. In March, the Economist magazine published a definitive article on the issue including its own poll of Parliament showing very significant support for the return of the Marbles.

No modern legal concepts of cultural properties apply to the case of the Parthenon Marbles because of the following tragic coincidence. The removal of the Parthenon Marbles occurred on